(a) whether there has recently been a steep rise in the prices of drugs under categories I and II;

(b) if so, the reasons which led to the increase in the drug prices; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to avoid frequent increases in the prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Prices are fixed in accordance with the provisions contained in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987. Some price increase is inevitable with rise in input costs.

Setting up of LPG Projects by GAIL

544. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited had taken up the work to set up some LPG projects in the country;

(b) if so, what are the names of the States where these projects are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether any such LPG project has been commissioned by the Gas Authority of India Limited so far; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) GAIL are setting up two LPG Units having a capacity of 203 thousand TPA each at Bijaipur in Madhya Pradesh. During the 8th Plan Period GAIL are also likely to set up LGP plants in the states of Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. GAIL has commissioned the first LPG Unit at Bijaipur in M.P. in January, 1991. The Project has been commissioned 7 months ahead of schedule.

Scarcity of kerosene in Orissa

545. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute scarcity of kerosene in Orissa, particularly in the Phulabani and Kalahandi districts of that State;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for reduction in the supply of kerosene to those districts;

(c) whether there is a need to increase the allotment of kerosene to Orissa; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) to (d) No reports have been received about acute scarcity of SKO in Orissa. Allocations of SKO to States|UTs are made by allowing a suitable growth over the allocations made in the correponding period of the previous year and allocations to Orissa have been made on this basis.

While over all allocation of kerosene to State|UTs is made by the Central Government, within the State District-wise allocations are made by the State Governments Management of the SKO distribution system at the local level is the responsibility of State Govts. The SKO allocations for Orissa in 1989 and 1990 were as follows:

Jan-Dce., 1989 — 150305 tonnes.

Jan-Dec., 1990 — 157442 tonnes.

SKO is a deficit product and over one-third of the country's requirements are met by imports. The diffi-